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CI 513 7/28/11

Reading Response -3

1. The Internet safety rules I would teach my students would be first and foremost, Think Before You Post. With all the recent discussion going on about cyber-bulling the time is ripe to review digital etiquette and safety with students. I would remind students that taking or sending inappropriate images of themselves can and probably will come back to haunt them and their reputations. Teaching students the potential dangers involved with communication on social networking sites is just as important as the adage “don’t talk to strangers”. Students should be reminded that if a website is questionable, ask an adult.

2. Students need to be aware of the real dangers involved with social networking sites by becoming network savvy. They need to limit what personal information they divulge with their privacy settings and not “friend” people they don’t know. They need to especially know the importance of disclosing address, phone numbers, passwords, etc… I would suggest they consider not posting anything they wouldn’t want their parents to see.

3. Cyber bullying is using electronic (internet, texting, etc.) to abuse or intimidate someone. What goes online is forever and they will be held accountable, bullying or harassing someone online is illegal. There are serious implications besides just breaking laws. Students should be made aware of the emotional impact and toll that bullying can have on their peers.

4. Sexting is the exchange of sexually explicit pictures on a cell phone between minors. The consequences can be embarrassing and costly. Students should know how prevalent it is for these pictures to “travel” among their peers to countless viewers. In addition to feeling humiliated, teased or harassed sending lude photos could fall into the hands of a sexual predator of future boss.

5. I would stress the importance of using secure passwords that they do not share with anyone. I would also suggest malware, Mcafee, Norton or other anti-virus software. Teaching students not to open mail from unknown senders or access sites they do not trust is most important.